AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 6, line 2, as follows:

FIG. 1 shows the amino acid sequence of naturally occurring (i.e., wild-type) $h\beta_2m$ (SEQ ID NO: 1); the signal peptide is double underlined and the amino acid numbering starts at the isoleucine residue that is the first residue of the mature protein. The serine at position 55 that is changed to valine in S55V is shown in bold.

FIG. 2 is a schematic representation of the B7.2-β_2 microglobulin fusion peptide construct.

FIG. 3 shows the sequence of the B7.2-β_2m fusion peptide (SEQ ID NO: 2). Residue 1 is a methionine required for expression, residues 2-220 are the extracellular portion of murine B7-2, residues 221-225 (italics) are a sequence created by the insertion of a restriction site into the nucleic acid sequence, residues 226-240 (underlined) are the linker sequence, and residues 241-339 are the mature form of $h\beta_2m$.

FIG. 4 shows the sequence of a B7-β_2m fusion peptide having the $h\beta_2m$ signal sequence (residues 1-20, double underlined) (SEQ ID NO: 3). Residues 21-239 are the extracellular portion of murine B7-2, residues 240-244 (italics) are a sequence created by the insertion of a restriction site into the nucleic acid sequence, residues 245-259 (underlined) are the linker sequence, and residues 260-358 are the mature form of $h\beta_2m$.